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The Cloning Conundrum

In Lee Silver’s “Jennifer and Rachel”, Silver explores a hypothetical situation in which human cloning is involved and then defends human cloning with arguments that opponents would undoubtedly bring up.

Silver starts his essay with a hypothetical scenario involving Jennifer a fairly wealthy woman alone in the world. While not in a relationship currently she has dabbled in romance on various occasions over the years and she is content with the way things are. One day in mid-April which happened to be her birthday Jennifer woke up with feeling like she was missing something in her life. A child. To achieve this she turns to cloning. However, in the United States cloning is illegal, so to circumvent the law she takes a leave of absence from work to the Cayman Islands.

The cloning process costs $80,000 for the first part of the operation. If the pregnancy doesn’t take it costs an additional $20,000 for each additional pregnancy attempt. Soon after returning home and discovering she is pregnant she goes through the same routine any other woman would have when expecting a child. Nobody suspects when Rachel is born that she is a clone Jennifer. Rachel while identical to Jennifer in every way will grow up as all other children in her age group.

Jennifer and Rachel are essentially the same person. Silver states that perhaps Rachel is actually her mothers sister and that her grandparents are actually her parents. He neither denies or affirms these thoughts as these ideas will have to be rethought.

Nobody has been affected in any negative way according to Silver. Dr. Callahan would argue against this claim. Callahan believes laboratory creation of a being with a completely identical genetic makeup to a host would hinder the cloned individual’s permissibly exclusive self. He may also bring up that such exposure to her future self’s flaws and potential ailments would be devastating to her mental wellbeing as she grows up. However lots of kids see a glimpse of their potential genetic short comings. This could also be a benefit since these potential issues can be fixed or treated early on. Rachel will become her own person. Jennifer will likely raise Rachel differently in a completely different environment and upbringing. Rachel will likely follow a much different path of life than her mother. Another issue opponents to cloning bring up is Jennifer expecting the same achievements to be met while Rachel grows up. Jennifer like any other mother will expect things of her child and in the end still love her the same way.

Perhaps Rachel soon starts feeling as though she is not an exclusive being. The Catholic hierarchy seems to think embryos are human and shouldn’t be altered. There have been similar concerns with in vitro fertilization. Silver believes it is impossible against these beliefs and moves on.

Many of the opponents such as William Safire think that on the whole cloning could mess with the process of evolution. Silver thinks that the fact that Cloning would be an extremely expensive service the amount of clones would be a small fraction of the world.

Silver covers Politian’s and their opinions on human cloning. Soon after Dolly was cloned. Politicians turned against the idea of human cloning. Tom Harkin was the only Senator to embrace human cloning. Silver feels no matter what human cloning will happen. If an individual wants to clone him or herself she will find some place that it is legal to do so. The private sector will control cloning. Where ever cloning is made illegal other places will allow it to profit off the taxes that such clinics would pay.

People have the right to reproduce or not to reproduce in democratic societies. Human cloning changes the way of this particular right. Today if one does not have to have sex or give sperm and eggs for IVF. However, tomorrow could be different as cloning requires nothing more than one’s genetic code that could easily be taken without consent. In Jennifer and Rachel’s situation there was consent. The use of cloning would help infertile couples have a child of their own to raise. Cloning without consent would bring up tons of litigation. There will still likely be surreptitious cloning somewhere in the world regardless of laws.

Silver, Lee M. “Jennifer and Rachel.” *Remaking Eden: Cloning and Beyond in a Brave New World* (1988): 117-25. Rpt. Iin *Writing in the Disciplines: A Reader and Rhetoric for Academic Writers,* 6th ed. Ed. Mary Lynch Kennedy and William J. Kennedy. Boston: Pearson 2009. 340-46. Print.

Hey-oh!

Your sentence structure is pretty much fine, except that you’re missing a hella lotta commas. I can help you out with that. Think, “I should pause here,” and then add a comma. Overall, your summary was pretty good – it included pretty much all the topics covered that I can think of, and gives the reader an understanding of cloning. You need to add to your thesis that it’s reproductive cloning that’s inevitable. Also, I’m not sure if your last sentence was supposed to be a restatement of Silver’s thesis, but a) it’s very rushed, and b) does not effectively over Silver’s main point. Consider adding another paragraph. To make it shorter, you can take out the details of the processes of fertilization and some of the background story. You had some good vocab in there too! Nice.